

REMARKS

Claims 1 to 10 are in the application.

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the objection to the drawings are respectfully requested.

Applicants respectfully submit that the drawings show every feature of the elected invention. The fastening means which in the original application were claimed in claim 2, are clearly shown in the drawing as originally filed. Specifically, the drawing shows the fastening means 16 in Figs. 3 and 4, and the fact that the fastening means extend parallel to the plane of the outer roof in an area of each bow is also clear from Fig. 4.

Accordingly, it is submitted that the objection to the drawings as well as the rejection of claims 1 to 10 under 35 U.S.C. 102(a), first paragraph, should be withdrawn.

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1, 2, 9, and 10 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Schiromura, are respectfully requested.

Applicants do not understand why the Examiner once again maintains the position that the fastening means 12a of Schiromura extend parallel to the plane of the outer roof covering in the area of each bow.

Applicants submit that the specification and drawings of the reference to Schiromura clearly show the fastening means 12a as extending transversely of the vehicle and horizontally, while the plane of the closed covering in this area extends vertically. This is because in the reference to Schiromura, the side pieces of the cover are located next to the fastening means 12a. In other words, the fastening means intersect the plane of the cover perpendicularly.

However, it is precisely the location of the fastening means parallel to the plane of the cover which is the central concept of the invention. The location of the fastening means has been set forth in the previously amended claims and, therefore, it is submitted that no further limitations are required.

In summary, Applicants respectfully submit that the prior art of record does not come close to the above-mentioned central concept of the invention.

Therefore, in view of the foregoing, it is submitted that this application is now in condition for allowance and such allowance is respectfully solicited.

Any additional fees or charges required at this time in connection with this application may be charged to Patent and Trademark Office Deposit Account No. 11-1835.

Respectfully submitted,



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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, PO Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on August 4, 2009.

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